



## Water Resources Division's Aquatic Invasive Species of the Week!

FOR THE WEEK OF:

May 13-19, 2013

Curlyleaf Pondweed

*Potamogeton crispus*



Photo: Chris Evans, Illinois Wildlife Action Plan, Bugwood.org

**Status:** Native to Eurasia. Widespread in the Lower Peninsula. Isolated patches in the Upper Peninsula- in particular Gogebic and Iron Counties.



Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

**Leaves:** Submerged, alternate, oblong, up to 3.5 inches long and 0.4 inches wide. Rounded at the tip; slightly clasping the stem at the base; wavy leaf margins with fine teeth- often described as lasagna noodles.

**Habitat:** Found in shallow to deep water of lakes and rivers.



Upclose photo of Curlyleaf pondweed illustrating the fine tooth edge.

**Important Feature:** Begins growing early in spring and then dies back completely by mid summer after blooming. This results in massive amounts of dead vegetation, which results in increase levels of phosphorus which lead to potential algal blooms. For more information on Curlyleaf pondweed, visit:

[www.misin.msu.edu](http://www.misin.msu.edu)

**Similar Species:** Claspingleaf Pondweed (Native). Distinguishing feature: leaf edges are smooth (not toothed). Submersed plant with lance-shaped leaves.

